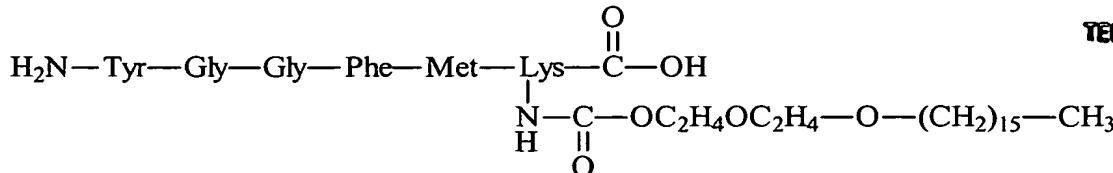


In re: Ekwuribe et al.
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Applicants respectfully submit that the elected drug-oligomer conjugate is within the following species noted in the Action: Species A(1); Species B(2); Species C(3); Species D(4); Species E(5); Species F(6); Species G(7); Species H(8); Species J(11); Species K(14); Species M(17); and Species N(26). Applicants respectfully submit that the following claims are readable on the elected species: 46, 47, 48 (wherein the lipophilic moiety is C₁₋₂₆ alkyl), 49 (wherein the hydrophilic moiety is PEG), 70-83, 85, and 94.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Any questions that the Examiner may have regarding this correspondence can be directed to the undersigned who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on November 15, 2000.

Audra Wooten
Date of Signature: November 15, 2000